

# SENIOR CRIMINALIST

## OPEN - STATEWIDE CONTINUOUS FILING



State of California  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
JUSTICE**  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

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CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT • AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER TO ALL REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION, AGE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

IT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ACHIEVE A DRUG-FREE STATE WORK PLACE. ANY APPLICANT FOR STATE EMPLOYMENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE BECAUSE THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LAW OF THE STATE, THE RULES GOVERNING CIVIL SERVICE AND THE SPECIAL TRUST PLACED IN PUBLIC SERVANTS.

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**EXAMINATION TYPE** This is an open, continuous examination. Applications for this examination will be accepted on a continuous basis.

**WHO CAN APPLY** Applicants who meet the minimum qualifications as stated in this bulletin will be admitted to the examination. Applications will **NOT** be accepted on a promotional basis.

**HOW TO APPLY** Applications (form STD 678) may be downloaded from the State Personnel Board's website at [www.spb.ca.gov](http://www.spb.ca.gov). Applications **MUST** be mailed to or filed in person with:

**Mailing Address:**  
Department of Justice  
Testing and Selection Unit  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550  
Attn: Sr Crim Exam

**File in Person:**  
Department of Justice  
Testing and Selection Unit  
1300 "I" Street, 1st Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Attn: Sr Crim Exam

**DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD, ONLINE, VIA INTER-AGENCY MAIL OR FAX.**

**RECRUITMENT SURVEY** As part of the application process, please follow [this web link](http://this.web.link) to complete a recruitment survey. If you are viewing this in paper form, visit the following website at [www.ag.ca.gov/careers/exams.php](http://www.ag.ca.gov/careers/exams.php).

**SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS** If you have a disability and need special testing arrangements, mark the appropriate box in Part 2 of the STD 678 - Examination and/or Employment Application or call the Testing and Selection Unit at (916) 324-5039.

**WRITTEN EXERCISE** It is anticipated that the written exercise may be held in Sacramento, Ripon, Fresno Richmond and/or Riverside. The final testing location(s) will depend on candidate pool.

**SALARY** \$5458 - \$7094  
"The salaries used in this bulletin are the latest available from the State Controller's Office, but may not reflect the most recent salary adjustment."  
**Salary not subject to social security. State Safety Retirement 2.5% at age 55.**

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**ELIGIBLE LIST  
INFORMATION**

Competitors can be tested only once during a 12-month period. Applications must be submitted within the testing period to be considered for that test administration. A candidate's eligibility will be established for 18 months. Eligibility will expire 18 months after it is established unless the needs of the service and conditions of the list warrant a change in this period. Names of successful competitors are merged into the eligible list in order of final scores, regardless of the test date. The resulting eligible list will be used to fill vacancies at the Department of Justice.

Positions exist statewide with the Department of Justice.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR  
ADMITTANCE TO THE  
EXAMINATION**

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements for this examination by the written test date. All applications/resumes must include "To" and "From" employment dates (Month/Day/Year), time base, and applicable classification titles.

**MINIMUM  
QUALIFICATIONS**

Experience applicable to one of the following patterns may be combined on a proportional basis with experience applicable to other patterns to meet the total experience requirement.

**Either I**

Two years of experience in the California state service performing the duties of a Criminalist, Range C.

**Or II**

**EXPERIENCE:** Four years of professional experience beyond the trainee level in a physical or biological science laboratory setting performing the duties of a chemist, biochemist or a related position. This experience must have included at least two years as a Criminalist having independent responsibility for making quantitative and qualitative analyses. (One year of postgraduate education in one of the physical or biological sciences may be substituted for one year of the required general experience.) Experience in California state service applied toward this requirement must include at least two years performing the duties of a Criminalist, Range C., and

**EDUCATION:** Equivalent to graduation from college with a major in one of the physical or biological sciences, including the equivalent of eight semester hours of general chemistry and three semester hours of quantitative analysis.

**Or III**

**EXPERIENCE:** Four years of professional experience in a physical or biological science laboratory setting performing independent research related to Forensic Science. (Possession of a master's degree in a physical or biological science may be substituted for one year of experience and possession of a Ph.D. in a physical or biological science for two years of the required experience.) Experience in California state service applied toward this requirement must include at least two years performing the duties of a Criminalist, Range C., and

**EDUCATION:** Equivalent to graduation from college with a major in one of the physical or biological sciences, including the equivalent of eight semester hours of general chemistry and three semester hours of quantitative analysis.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**PHYSICAL OR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**APPROVED:** Chemistry (any type), biochemistry, biology, physics, geology, mineralogy, petrology, chemical engineering, forensic science, pharmacology, microbiology, molecular biology, biological sciences, immunology, entomology and criminalistics.

**NOT APPROVED:** Astronomy, meteorology, agriculture, business science, engineering, health sciences and agricultural sciences.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Senior Criminalists perform the most complex types of evidence examination and analyses on physical evidence associated with criminal investigations. This position requires specialized education and/or experience. The Senior Criminalist generally performs casework and/or research in areas of criminalistics such as: crime scene investigation, serology, DNA, DNA Databank, firearms and toolmark examinations, clandestine lab/drug examinations, Blood Alcohol/Toxicology, and trace evidence. The Senior Criminalist must be able to recognize physical evidence, devise an appropriate analytical scheme, perform testing and properly interpret analytical data.

Specifically, the Senior Criminalist must be familiar with methods used to analyze the following types of physical evidence: blood and other body fluids, hair, fiber, soil, paint, glass, building materials, cartridge cases/bullets, tool marks, chemicals, and shoeprints/tire tracks. The Senior Criminalist should be able to devise experiments and conduct research to address complex forensic science questions. The Senior Criminalist must be able to effectively explain scientific concepts, analytical methods and data interpretation in court. The Senior Criminalist should also be able to make scientific presentations to their peers at forensic science seminars and conferences and to provide instruction on various aspects of physical evidence to law enforcement personnel. The Senior Criminalist is the full journey level of the Criminalist series. Incumbents are assigned the most complex cases. In some settings, incumbents may serve in a lead position or supervise/coordinate the work of other Criminalists.

**EXAMINATION  
INFORMATION**

This examination will consist of a Written Exercise weighted 100%. The Written Exercise will include questions designed to evaluate the applicant's education, training, experience and general knowledge of criminalistics as well as more specific knowledge of a speciality area of the **applicant's choosing** from the following seven (7) areas: Serology, DNA, Clandestine Labs, Trace, Firearms, Blood Alcohol/Toxicology, and DNA Data bank. In order to obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum rating of 70.00% must be obtained. **COMPETITORS WHO DO NOT APPEAR FOR THE WRITTEN EXERCISE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

**WRITTEN EXERCISE - WEIGHTED 100.00%**

In addition to evaluating the competitor's relative abilities as demonstrated by quality and breadth of experience, emphasis in the examination will be measured competitively, relative to job demands on each competitor's:

**Knowledge of:**

1. Scientific methods and techniques used in examining crime scenes.
2. Tests for screening and confirmation of blood and other physiological fluids.
3. Modern methods and techniques in investigations of major crimes.
4. ASCLD/LAB accreditation standards.
5. Photographic and photo micrographic principles and practices as applied to Criminalistics.

**Ability to:**

1. Testify effectively in court.
2. Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.
3. Perform casework, Toxicological or DNA data bank analysis at a journeyman level.  
This includes note-taking, report writing, and court testimony.
4. Perform technical and administrative review of analytical work.
5. Recognize technical problems in casework or DNA data bank analysis.
6. Make extensive use of scientific methods and techniques at the scene of a crime.
7. Make effective use of microscopes and advanced instrumentation such as infrared and ultra-violet spectrometers, gas chromatographs, mass spectrometers, and capillary electrophoresis.,
8. Instruct law enforcement and forensic personnel in criminalistics.
9. Recognize the need for and develop and evaluate new test methods and procedures.

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**EXAMINATION  
INFORMATION  
(CONTINUED)**

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10. Organize and prioritize one's workload to meet established deadlines and ensure the most important tasks are completed.

**BACKGROUND  
INVESTIGATION  
INFORMATION**

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Under Section 432.7(e) of the Labor Code, persons seeking employment with the Department of Justice may be asked to disclose arrest or detention information regardless of whether or not the arrest or detention resulted in conviction, referral, or participation in diversion programs. Department of Justice regulations require, as a minimum, preemployment investigations consisting of fingerprinting, inquiry to local, State, and national files to disclose criminal records, verification of minimum qualifications (i.e., college transcripts), financial status, previous employment background, and personal interviews to determine applicant's suitability for employment.

The information you furnish will be used to help determine your suitability for employment with the Department of Justice.

**SPECIAL PERSONAL  
CHARACTERISTICS**

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Tact, patience, and keenness of observation.

**DRUG TESTING  
REQUIREMENT**

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Applicants for position in this class series are required to pass a drug-screening test. A urine sample will be used for drug screening purposes. (The drug-screening test will be waived for employees who are currently in a designated "sensitive" class for which drug testing is required under State Personnel Board Rule 213.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

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Pass/Fail - Pursuant to Government Code Section 1031, persons appointed to a peace officer class shall undergo a medical examination to determine that he or she can perform the essential functions of the job safely and effectively. The medical examination also includes a back x-ray, visual acuity, and color vision tests.

**VETERANS  
PREFERENCE/CAREER  
CREDITS**

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Veterans Preference Credits or Career Credits will not be granted in this examination.

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

**The Department of Justice** reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all candidates will be notified.

**It is the candidate's responsibility** to contact the Department of Justice, (916) 324-5039, TDD (916) 952-8396 three days prior to the written test date if he/she has not received his/her notice.

For an examination without a written feature it is the candidates's responsibility to contact the Department of Justice, (916) 324-5039, TDD (916) 952-8396 three weeks after the final filing date if he/she has not received a progress notice.

**If a candidate's notice** of oral interview or performance test fails to reach him/her prior to the day of the interview due to a verified postal error, he/she will be rescheduled upon written request.

Applications are available at the Department of Justice [www.ag.ca.gov](http://www.ag.ca.gov), the State Personnel Board [www.spb.ca.gov](http://www.spb.ca.gov), and local Offices of the Employment Development Department [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

**If you meet the requirements** stated on the reverse, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirement does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described on the other side of this bulletin will be compared with the performance of the others who take this test, and all candidates who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

**Examination Locations:** When a written test is part of the examination, it will be given in such places in California as the number of candidates and conditions warrant. Ordinarily, interviews are scheduled in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. However, locations of interviews may be limited or extended as conditions warrant.

**Eligible Lists:** Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) subdivisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in from one to four years unless otherwise stated on this bulletin.

**Promotional Examinations Only:** Competition is limited to employees who have a permanent civil service appointment. Under certain circumstances other employees may be allowed to compete under provisions of Rules 234, 235, and 235.2. State Personnel Board Rules 233, 234, 235, 235.2 and 237 contain provisions regarding civil service status and eligibility for promotional examinations. These rules may be reviewed at departmental personnel offices or at the Information Counter of State Personnel Board offices.

**Veterans Preference:** California law limits the granting of veterans preference credits to entrance examinations. When credit is granted in an Open Examination it is as follows: 10 points for veterans, widows or widowers of veterans, and spouses of 100% disabled veterans; and 15 points for disabled veterans. When credit is granted in an Open Nonpromotional Examination it is as follows: 10 points for disabled veterans and 5 points for other veterans. Directions for applying for veterans preference and definitions for Veteran Disabled Veteran are available on the Application for Veterans Preference form which is available from the State Personnel Board office or written test proctors.

**General Qualifications:** Candidates must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment, and ability to work cooperatively with others; and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

**High School Equivalence:** Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the candidate is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.

If hearing impaired, call the California Relay Service.

1-800-735-2929 (From TDD Phone)

1-800-735-2922 (From Voice Phone)

TDD is Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from telephones equipped with a TDD device.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
TESTING AND SELECTION UNIT  
P. O. BOX 944255  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2550  
(916) 324-5039